

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION - OFFICE OF ENERGY
RESOURCES**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT

**THE RHODE ISLAND RENEWABLE ENERGY SITING PARTNERSHIP
(RESP)**

In August of 2011 the University of Rhode Island (URI) and the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (RIOER) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Renewable Energy Siting Partnership Project (RESP Project). Funding for the RESP Project is from an ARRA-SEP DOE Grant administered through RIOER.

The RESP Project has taken and continues to take into account the intent of the State of Rhode Island and many of its political sub-divisions to consider investing in renewable energy infrastructure. During the project, URI personnel provided technical expertise with respect to the effects renewable energy may have on the people, the wildlife and the natural resources of Rhode Island. Based on this work, and through extensive public involvement, a URI team of skilled professionals in the fields of energy, research and planning have developed guidelines that can be used by Rhode Island and its municipalities to site and manage renewable energy activities. Additionally, the RESP Project continues to make state and municipal energy information accessible to the public through a

comprehensive online energy database.

The RESP Project has provided a stakeholder process to engage key constituencies and interested citizens. Stakeholder group members and meeting attendees have voiced their concerns and issues, provided thoughtful input, and learned about renewable energy research in Rhode Island.

The RESP Project is not an advocacy effort. It brings science and lessons learned from other places into the marketplace of ideas and builds on the multiple renewable energy efforts underway in Rhode Island so that governmental leaders can make informed, fact-based decisions regarding renewable energy infrastructure.

As part of the RESP Project, RIOER is pleased to offer the DRAFT documents described below for public comment. All stakeholders and residents of Rhode Island are encouraged to review these DRAFT documents and submit comments using the online Comment Forms also described below.

The DRAFT documents being released for public comment include:

- 1) Volume 1. Summary Report**
- 2) Volume 2. Technical Reports**
- 3) Volume 3. Siting Guidelines**
- 4) Rhode Island Energy Website www.rienergy.org**

**Electronic links to download PDF files for the DRAFT documents can be accessed along the left hand side of the following web page:
<http://seagrant.gso.uri.edu/resp/comment.html>.**

For convenience, the RESP Project website offers an online Comment Form for submitting comments on the DRAFT documents at:

<http://seagrant.gso.uri.edu/resp/comment.html>.

All persons wanting to make comments are requested to use this online Comment Form. In addition to the online form, a link has been provided in the upper left corner of the home page of the website to download a “Comment Template” in MS Word format that can be used to organize multiple comments. If the Comment Template is used, there is a field within the online Comment Form that allows attachment of the completed file (note, the “Browse” button can be used to attach your completed file).

However, please note that comments may also be submitted by mail to: Teresa Crean, Project Manager, University of Rhode Island, Coastal Resources Center - MRB Rm 108A, 220 South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI 02882 or by hand-delivery at either of the two workshops described below.

Two RESP Project public workshops to discuss the DRAFT documents and comments thereto will be held. The first will be held on Wednesday, August 15, 2012 and the second on Wednesday, August 22, 2012. Both will be held from 6 - 8 PM at the Corless Auditorium, on the URI Bay Campus. Directions to the URI Bay Campus may be found at <http://www.uri.edu/home/visitors/Map/NarragansettBayCampus.pdf> for directions.

Please note that the public comment period will close at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 31, 2012. RIOER and its URI team sincerely thank you for your interest in this effort, and looks forward to receiving comments on the DRAFT documents.

Signed this 10th day of July 2012

**Ronald N. Renaud,
Executive Director
Rhode Island Department of Administration**

IMPORTANT: Any individual requiring a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the these public workshops should contact Mr. James A. Pitazzi, Jr., Rhode Island Department of Administration at 401.222-6395 (voice) or #711 (R.I. Relay) at least three (3) business days prior to the workshop(s) that you wish to attend.